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NOV 12 1969

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger  
 SUBJECT: Soviet SALT Delegation Named: Technical Competence  
 Suggests Readiness to Address Concrete Problems

The six-man Soviet SALT delegation, whose names were given to ACDA by the Soviet Embassy yesterday, includes several military and technical experts. This may indicate that along with the propaganda noises that Moscow has begun to make about SALT, it may be prepared to examine the complex technical issues involved.

The delegation head is a Foreign Ministry professional, Semyonov, who has had no past disarmament experience but is a very intelligent and hard-working troubleshooting type. He has been their leading German expert and recently has handled Middle East questions as well.

The General Staff is represented by the senior deputy of the over-age Chief of Staff. This man has an engineering background and seems politically well connected.

In addition there are electronic experts and research specialists.

While one should never make too much of the composition of Soviet delegations in estimating their intentions -- these are of course politically determined and controlled -- it is at least of interest that the Soviet group looks technically very competent.

HSonnenfeldt:mm:11/6/69

MORI/CDF per C03360026

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Nov 6 1969

TO: Mr. Kissinger

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

Attached at Tab A for signature  
is a brief memo to the President  
commenting on the Soviet SALT  
delegation.

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